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Montana State University Worthy Scholar Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MISSOULA, May (OO)---Eight top ranking Montana high school students will be awarded full fee scholarships for their first year of studies at Montana State University during the annual Interscholastic meet on the MSU campus, May 19. The lucky eight will be among 14 finalists, selected from nearly 300 Montana high school scholars who applied for the awards, according to A. C. Cogswell, Dean of Students.

The faculty scholarship committee made its selection fo finalists on the basis of student credentials and test scores. The 14 students chosen will be brought to the MSU campus at University expense to participate in further tests and interviews with the scholarship committee. Included in the list of finalists are Darrell W. Anderson, Westby; Marilyn F. Brewer, Helena; Sharon Anne Cotrell, St. Ignatius; Gary E. Eudaily, Missoula; A. Douglas Ferris, Helena; Jerry R. Holloron, Corvallis; Robert E. Nofsinger, Missoula; Kenneth A. Osher, Polson; Patricia Ann Smith, Dillon; Larry E. Vahl, Grass Range; Penny D. Warden, Kalispell; George M. White, Ronan; Dennis Williams, Sidney; Ann S. Wolhowe, Miles City; Wilbur H. Wood, Roundup.

The MSU Worthy Scholar program was first launched in 1953 and, according to Dean Cogswell, it has been an unqualified success in helping to bring brainy Montana students to the MSU campus. Up to now, 96 students have won the full fee scholarship awards, and studies of their careers at MSU indicate that they not only maintain high grade averages, they almost invariably emerge as campus leaders, Cogswell noted. One Rhodes scholar has developed in the group in addition to others who have won various fellowships, scholarships and top positions in student organizations.

A study of grade averages for the Worthy Scholars who were given awards at last year's Interscholastic indicated that they maintained a 3.516 grade during the fall and winter quarters of this school year. This means that their grades have fallen a bit better than midway between B and A, Cogswell said.

(more)

The program is financed by funds from the Montana State University Endowment Foundation and, as Cogswell noted, the amount of money available varies from year to year. In some years, the program has provided for more freshman scholarships than will be available this season. While the Worthy Scholar awards apply only to a student's first year on the MSU campus, it is generally the case that students who have enough scholarship to win the initial awards go on through their entire college careers with the aid of further awards under the University's regular scholarship program, he said.

"These students would be a success anywhere, and our only regret is that we do not have enough funds to present more Worthy Scholar awards than we do. We have had enough experience with the program to know that it encourages Montana high school students to do better work, and that it does aid the development of superior minds," Dean Cogswell said.